

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: AF/N:RFSMITH:LOF

APPROVED BY: AF/N:RFSMITH

AFR/NA:EWENDT (INFO)

AFR/CWR:HFARNHAM (INFO)

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R 171524Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ACOM, XA

SUBJ: FAO/ID RELATIONS RE SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS  
FOLLOWING SENT DAKAR, ABIDJAN, BAMAKO, NAIMEY, OUAGADOUGOU,  
FORT LAMY, USUN NEW YORK, NOUAKCHOTT, ROME, SECSTATE,  
NATO FROM EC PARIS ON JULY 13, RPTD TO YOU:

QUE

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FOR ADAMS AND MCCLURE

FROM WILLIAMS - PRESIDENT'S COORDINATOR FOR SAHEL  
DROUGHT RELIEF

EO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ACOM, XA

SUBJ: FAO/ID RELATIONS RE SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS

1. PRESIDENT'S COORDINATOR FOR SAHEL RELIEF, MAURICE WILLIAMS,  
MET WITH FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL OOERMA IN ROME, JULY 11 TO  
REVIEW TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENT COMMITMENTS OF FOOD  
TO THE SAHEL AREA, AND NEED FOR ASSESSMENT OF CROP  
PROSPECTS, FOOD STOCKS AND SHIPMENTS, IN RELATION TO THE  
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NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD DURING THE COMING YEAR 1974.  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR BROWN AND FODAG REPRESENTATIVE  
SKILES ACCOMPANIED WILLIAMS AND HELD ADDITIONAL  
WORKING SESSIONS WITH NEHEMIAH AND FAO SAHEL RELIEF

OPERATIONS STAFF. BOERMA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR FAO STAFF, INCLUDING JACKSON, YRIAT, NEHEMIAH AND WALTON.

2. REGARDING TRANSPORT, BROWN EXPLAINED TO NEHEMIAH THAT THERE APPEARED REMAIN CERTAIN KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FAO AND AID REGARDING AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS, SINCE IT SEEMED FAO CONTINUED FEEL THERE NEED FOR MASSIVE MOVEMENTS FROM PORTS TO INLAND AREAS WHILE USG FELT THAT WHILE SOME SUCH REQUIREMENTS MAY EXIST, MAJOR CONCERN SHOULD BE SELECTIVE MOVEMENT OF GRAINS TO MORE REMOTE INLAND AREAS. NEHEMIAH SAID THAT FAO THINKING ON THIS MATTER HAS BEEN SHIFTING PARTICULARLY AS THEY TOOK INTO ACCOUNT INCREASE IN DAKAR-BAMAKO RAIL CAPABILITY. AS A RESULT THERE IS NOW IN FACT CONSIDERABLE SIMILARITY IN VIEW BETWEEN FAO AND USG.

3. WILLIAMS DROVE HOME POINT IN CONVERSATION WITH BOERMA THAT OUR PRESENT INFORMATION DID NOT INDICATE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT IN THE REGION, LET ALONE A MASSIVE ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT WHICH KEPT CROPPING UP IN PRESS SUGGESTIONS. FUNDS WERE TOO SCARCE TO ENGAGE UNNECESSARILY IN LARGE AIRLIFT OF FOOD GRAINS, WHEN GROUND TRANSPORT HAD TO BE THE MAJOR APPROACH, WILLIAMS SAID. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT NEEDS MAY BE IDENTIFIED FOR INLAND MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY AS RAINY SEASON PROGRESSES.

4. IN CONNECTION ABOVE, NEHEMIAH POINTED OUT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SOME NEED FOR AIRLIFT FROM PORTS, BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE BASED PRIMARILY ON FACT THAT IT MORE CONVENIENT FLY DIRECTLY FROM PORTS TO CERTAIN INLAND POINTS (E.G. DAKAR TO WESTERN MALI RATHER THAN REACHING THIS AREA FROM BAMAKO) BUT THAT JUSTIFICATION LAY IN SIMPLER LOGISTICS AND FLIGHT PLANS NOT IN NEED TO CLEAR PORTS AS HAD EARLIER BEEN THE CASE.

5. WILLIAMS AND BROWN MADE CLEAR TO BOERMA THAT USG WOULD MAINTAIN PRESENT AIRLIFT CAPACITY IN AREA SO LONG AS THIS IS ESSENTIAL, AND THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUGMENT IT IF THERE IS REALLY DEMONSTRATED NEED. WE HAD NOT SEEN SUCH A NEED  
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DEMONSTRATED TO DATE. WE HAD FELT FAO HAD BEEN MAKING GENERALIZED CALLS FOR INCREASED AIRLIFT WHICH WERE INSUFFICIENTLY SPECIFIC TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR RESPONSE BY OURSELVES. BUT IF IN THE FUTURE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS WERE IDENTIFIED FOR AIRLIFTS, MEETING NEEDS THAT CANNOT OTHERWISE BE MET OVER PARTICULAR PERIODS OF TIME, WE WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE, RELATIVE, OF COURSE, TO CAPABILITIES OF OTHER DONORS AS WELL. WHILE WELCOMING THIS POSITION, BOERMA DID RECALL THAT WHEN FAO HAD MADE A SPECIFIC REQUEST, I.E., SUDAN-FORT LAMY SEED AIRLIFT, USG HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE. WILLIAMS RECALLED THAT WHEN THAT REQUEST RECEIVED, WE HAD POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REGARDING ONWARD MOVEMENT OF SEED FROM

FORT LAMY WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN ANSWERED. IN ANY EVENT, USG DID  
CONTRIBUTE \$300,000 TOWARDS COST OF FAO ORGANIZED  
COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS FOR THIS SEED LIFT.

6. MAJOR OUTCOME THIS PART OF DISCUSSION WAS THAT HIGHEST LEVELS  
FAO HAVE NOW ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO NEED  
FOR AIRLIFT AIMED PRIMARILY AT MOVING PRODUCTS FROM PORT AREA  
AND THAT ALL AIRLIFT WORK SHOULD BE DIRECTED NOW AT MOVING FOODS  
INTO MORE REMOTE AREAS THAT CANNOT BE SERVED BY GROUND TRANS-  
PORT. FURTHER, FAO PRESUMABLY UNDERSTANDS THAT WE CONTINUE  
STAND READY PROVIDE SUCH AIRCRAFT AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE IF  
SPECIFIC NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED. HOWEVER, BOTH NEHEMIAH AND  
BOERMA RAISED OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED JOINT TRANSPORT SURVEY.  
AS FAR AS WE COULD DETERMINE, THIS WAS PRIMARILY A POLITICAL  
CONCERN THAT IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO FAO, AFTER SOME TIME  
AS DROUGHT COORDINATOR, NOW TO ASK GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT  
TO UNDERTAKE THE KIND OF SURVEY WHICH PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN  
MADE SOME TIME AGO.

7. OTHER SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS NEED FOR ANALYSIS OF  
REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD BEYOND PRESENT COMMITMENTS TO COVER  
PERIOD APPROXIMATELY ONE MORE YEAR. IT WAS AGREED SUCH AN  
ANALYSIS ESSENTIAL AT AN EARLY DATE AND FAO INDICATED IT  
PREPARED UNDERTAKE LEAD IN SUCH AN EFFORT. FAO WILL THERE-  
FORE IMMEDIATELY PREPARE A SCOPE OF WORK FOR SUCH AN  
ANALYSIS AND WILL SEEK CONCURRENCE BY INTERSTATE COMMITTEE  
AND BY KEY DONORS IN THAT SCOPE OF WORK. TENTATIVELY, FAO  
SUGGESTS INITIAL WORK ON ANALYSIS SHOULD BEGIN LATE AUGUST,  
WHEN IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE BEGIN ESTIMATING MORE CLEARLY  
LIKELY OUTCOME OF LOCAL CROP SITUATION. IN ESSENCE,  
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STUDY WOULD SEEK DETERMINE, ON BASIS PROBABLE CROP  
OUTCOME THIS YEAR, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SPECIAL REQUIRE-  
MENTS IMPOSED BY DISRUPTION TO ECONOMY RESULTING FROM  
PRESENT DROUGHT SITUATION, TOTAL FOOD REQUIREMENT FOR REGION  
AND BY AREA; TIMING AS TO WHEN DELIVERIES SHOULD BE MADE  
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANTICIPATED TIMING UNDER PRESENT COMMIT-  
MENTS; AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS THAT ADDITIONAL  
DELIVERIES WILL POSE, WITH AN ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO DETERMINE  
TIMING/TRANSPORT PROBLEMS SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE TO REDUCE  
TO MINIMUM FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORT MEANS  
SUCH AS AIRLIFTS.

8. WILLIAMS INDICATED THAT AID WOULD BE PLEASED PARTICIPATE  
IN SURVEY AND SUGGESTED IT BE UNDERTAKEN AS A COMBINED OPERATION.  
WE ALSO WOULD WANT TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE SCOPE OF WORK.  
BOERMA AGREED BEGIN PREPARATION SCOPE OF WORK IMMEDIATELY  
AND WILL CONSULT WITH AID AS SOON AS IT IS READY.  
WILLIAMS  
UNQUOTE RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE139776  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/N:RFSMITH:LOF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730768/abqcemvz.tel  
**Line Count:** 164  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** worrelsw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by worrelsw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:**  
**Subject:** FAO/ID RELATIONS RE SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS FOLLOWING SENT DAKAR, ABIDJAN, BAMAKO, NAIMEY, OUAGADOUGOU, FORT LAMY, USUN NEW YORK, NOUAKCHOTT, ROME, SECSTATE, NATO FROM EC PARIS ON JULY 13, RPTD TO YOU:  
**TAGS:** EAID, ACOM, XA  
**To:** KHARTOUM  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005